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## COSMOPOLITAN CORRESPONDENCE.



THE Correspondence of the Cosmopolitan Association is, truly, of a cosmopolitan character. The secretaryships reaching into all sections of the Union, place the Actuary in possession of documents of a very valuable character, informing, as they do, of the Art and Literary taste in each section, the state of the press, &c., &c.—information which could be obtained through no other source, and which is so interesting in its character that we shall lay it before our readers as the occasion permits. In this number of the JOURNAL we quote from a few of the very large file of letters before us, absorbing the space which we otherwise should have devoted to Home and Foreign Correspondence. This will account for the absence of such correspondence in this place. We quote from the letters before us as follows:

WM. D. WOOD, honorary secretary for St. Louis, lately wrote: "I have this moment received the first number of the ART JOURNAL, and cannot refrain from congratulating you upon your success in cherishing a taste for Art in our glorious republic. Such men as you and your associates, do more for the civilization and refinement of the country than a legion of noisy demagogues. And I sincerely trust that you will double your list of subscribers for the present year."

THOS. A. SWEETZER, of South Danvers, Mass., writes: "In acknowledging the receipt of Vol. 1, No. 1, of the COSMOPOLITAN ART JOURNAL, let me offer congratulations on the continued success that attends the Association. I rejoice at its bright prospects, and regret that I have not been able to contribute more towards that success. I could not, at first, but have serious doubts of the Institution's success, fearing the American people were not prepared for such an institution. I doubt no longer, but do feel that it is an acknowledged national enterprise in every sense of the word; and I can truly add, without being accused of flattery, that its government has conducted very largely to its success. 'Tis the easiest thing in the world to mismanage such an institution—'tis one of the hardest to give satisfaction to all. Yet I believe this latter has, in a great degree,

been done, in proof of which I point to its progression."

M. L. PEASE, writing from Fox Lake, Wisconsin, says: "I have just received the first number of the ART JOURNAL, issued by your association. It being an unexpected and gratuitous offering, I must be allowed to express my thanks as a member of the Association, for the beautiful gift. God speed you in the noble work of cultivating the love of the Beautiful among the people! Fox Lake is a pleasant and thriving place of 2000 or 3000 people, with college, &c., and one newspaper. The interests of the Cosmopolitan are dear to me, and I love to work for such a cause. I will do all I can to increase your lists."

H. B. CARTER, writing from Plaiston, N. H., says, among other things: "I have shown the JOURNAL to several, and it has created quite a sensation. The idea of receiving a magazine like it FREE, is what touches the spot. I will do what I can for your most worthy cause."

M. H. DIXON, of Bonham, Texas, says: "I think I can get a good many subscribers, and will take pleasure in doing all I can to aid in your great undertaking. It seems to me that nothing can more elevate the people of our common country in the scale of civilization, than the circulation of such works of art and literature as you contemplate."

Mrs. H. A. SEELEY, of Kalamazoo, Mich., writes: "I have read with pleasure your Annual Report, which was handed me as a compliment to my love and practice of landscape-painting. There is a good deal of love for the Fine Arts evinced by our citizens, which, if properly directed and encouraged, may be beneficial both to its possessors and to your admirable Association."

J. TENNIS, of Wilmington, Ohio, says: "If all moves on right, and your institution continues to flourish, you may consider my name pledged for from thirty to fifty subscribers annually."

J. JENNINGS, of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, says: "I shall be most happy to continue to act as honorary secretary for the Association, and hope to do my share towards increasing its efficacy and receipts by thoroughly canvassing Lawrence county. I am gratified to hear of its charming prospects. Most of the old year's subscribers here can be depended upon as permanent fixtures, and we shall have their active co-operation in the coming campaign. I hope to send you one hundred subscribers."

J. PARKER JORDAN, of Hertford, N. C., says: "We have been, heretofore, emphatically a utilitarian people. It is high time some movement was made towards cultivating the Fine Arts. No plan can be devised more eminently calculated to bring about this desired result, than this Association of yours. Great enterprises can only be accomplished in this way, and I know of none that will conduce more to the public interest. Permit me, therefore, to hail the formation of the 'Cosmopolitan Association' as a new era in polite science. I will set myself to work, and see what I can do by way of material encouragement."

MARK DOOLITTLE, of Belchertown, Mass., writes: "I am gratified to learn that the object of your Association has been entered upon with so much energy, and with so fair a promise of success. May the benefits anticipated be realized a hundred-fold, and carried down to future time as monuments of the taste, patriotism, and desire of the Association to benefit the country and the world. I am, I say, rejoiced that such efforts are on foot to raise the Arts to a higher state of perfection, and to extend them over a wider circle than they have hitherto reached."

JOHN SUTHERLAND, of Ripley—no State given—writes: "I am not certain that I can be the means of adding a single member to your society. The people of the South, generally, are very little interested in any thing that pertains to either Art or Literature. The 'Almighty Dollar' is the ruling deity—the Trinity, the negro, the mule, and land. The wealthy, intelligent planter is an exception. All others are in eager pursuit of the dollar, looking neither to the right nor to the left." We must add that the correspondent's opinion and our experience do not at all harmonize. Our Southern lists are very large, and the good word that comes to us from many sections of the Southern States, proves that there is no want of Art appreciation throughout that rich and commercially-great portion of this Union. *Dollar-worship*, certainly, is not wanting in the Northern States.

AMOS CLARK, of Nachadoches, Texas, says: "I will most cheerfully contribute my mite to the advancement of the objects of the Association. I am now old, laboring under infirmities, but still feel an anxiety for those who are to come after me. I have but little to say in regard to the statistics of our town. Suffice it to say, it is the oldest town east of San An-

tonio, and the antiquarian would find food to feast upon were he to attempt to give a history of the time-honored village, or, as we usually say, city. I happen to occupy the most ancient dwelling in the old political department of Nachadoches, which has been the rendezvous of various chieftains, and whose surrounding soil has been irrigated with blood. The old town, although small, has been the scene of more fighting, more conspiracies, more bloodshed, than perhaps any other town in Texas. It is about the age of Philadelphia, Vincennes, St. Louis, and various other old posts and missions established by the French, extending from the Lakes to the Rio Grande. I shall be pleased to render the Association any assistance in my power, consistent with my other professional and domestic duties."

JAMES F. HENRY, of Greenfield, Ind., writes: "The newspaper published here has a circulation of eight hundred, and is published by myself. Your plan appears to take with the people hereabout, and I hope to be able to assist you considerably."

N. W. BLISS, of Warsaw, Ill., thus relates his experience, and we append his letter quite at length, since it is similar in tone and subject-matter to very many others for which we cannot make place. He says: "Your favor explanatory of why my magazines have not reached me is at hand, and is entirely satisfactory, and I am much pleased to find that my confidence was not misplaced. So many humbug 'gift enterprises,' and things of the kind, are got up now-a-days at the East, that we, *innocent* people, out here on the Father of Waters, if willing to take chances, are extremely liable to get taken in; and as I am somewhat noted for my opposition to the principle of such enterprises, it was a matter of self-gratification with those of my acquaintances who indulge in such, that there was a probability that I was taken in, in what (they said) I chose to call 'an association for the encouragement of Art.' I looked upon the C. A. A. as a *voluntary* club of magazine subscribers, appropriating the surplus of single subscriber rates over enormous club rates, to the purchase of works of art for distribution, by lot, among the members, after paying the necessary expenses; and I could not be satisfied that many of the most eminent literati of our country should see complimentary notices of an enterprise so likely to deceive (if indeed deceptive) circulating in newspapers,

over their names, without denying their authenticity. In regard to acting as honorary secretary for the C. A. A. at this place, I shall be happy to do so, if you wish it; for being an admirer of your new system of Art association, I shall take pleasure in recommending it, and extending its benefits and resources."

Jas. R. Newell, of Pittsford, Vt., says: "I feel a great interest in the advancement of the cause of Art, and trust that America will, one day, become the brightest star in the galaxy of cultivated nations:

The King can make a belted knight,  
Confer proud names, and a' that;  
But pith of wit and pride of worth,  
Are brighter ranks than a' that.

We have no paper published in this place, nor in the towns near us, except in Rutland and Brandon. The population of this town is twenty-five hundred."

T. C. Moulton, of St. Anthony, Minnesota, writes: "I will, with pleasure, do all I can for the advancement of the interests of your Association, knowing as I do that, were it not for the refining influences of the Fine Arts, we were no better than our red-skin neighbors."

Wm. J. Byere, of Omaha City, Nebraska, writes: "If I can be of any service to your Association, in your very laudable undertaking of a general diffusion of works of Art and wholesome Literature, I shall most cheerfully engage in the work. Our city is young but full of spirit, and promises well for the future."

C. T. Layton, writes encouragingly for American Art. He resides in Georgetown, D. C. He says: "It will afford me great pleasure to act as Hon. Secretary to the Cosmopolitan Art Association, as you have proposed; and also, to aid in the noble enterprise of that Association, as far as I possibly can. I have read the Second Annual Catalogue, 1855-6, with lively satisfaction; and am pleased with the plan, and means adopted to encourage the Arts and Literature of our country. We are yet in our infancy, as a people (unless it be assumed that, like Minerva, we have sprung full grown into existence); yet, with all the difficulties we have labored under, from want of capital, want of time, and inclination or taste, to examine and encourage the Fine Arts, we have exhibited a rare amount of talent, of genius, in all the branches thereof. I am delighted to see the efforts your Association is making to evoke and encourage that talent, and to cultivate a taste for the Arts, by

distributing works of merit by native, as well as foreign, artists, among our people. I shall feel honored, sir, by the appointment as an Honorary Secretary; and, as Lefore remarked, will use my best efforts to promote the objects of the Association."

E. J. GOLLADAY, Lebanon, Tennessee, writes: "Your communication in regard to the Cosmopolitan Association has been received. A former letter addressed to Hon. R. L. Camthus, by you, had been placed in my hands by him, thinking I would doubtless feel an interest in the matter. No one more fully approves the objects of the Association than myself, and if the plan could be properly seconded by an abundant subscription, great and beneficial effects would certainly follow. A high taste in Art is much needed, and a more ample encouragement of artists is a high desideratum. However, I need make no remarks of approbation. I am willing to serve the Association as desired—not so much from any profit, as the willingness to forward a good cause. The truth is, you need not expect much encouragement from this place, for I am satisfied not many will take an interest in the affair. Simply a few.

"Some were interested in the Art Union Association of Philadelphia, and the successes have given them no very exalted opinion of such an Association. However, I will take great pleasure in forwarding the interests of the Cosmopolitan to the best of my ability."

We have many other letters of interest, but have not space for their reproduction in this number of the JOURNAL. The encouragement they give to the Association is great, while the information they give is of a valuable character. We hope, in future numbers of the JOURNAL, to reproduce many of them. In the mean time, we must ask of our secretaries that they chronicle all Art items and literary gossip of their respective neighborhoods, so far as they can; for such things tend greatly to throw light upon the taste and progress of the community. Our legitimate purpose is to disseminate literature and works of art among the people; but we propose, so far as it is practicable, to keep the secretaries of the JOURNAL advised of the progress each section of the Union, and of the different States, is making in Art and Literary taste. We shall have no want of material if each secretary does his duty in this matter.